promote India as a perferred destination in the overseas markets. These include advertising in the print and electronic media, outdoor advertising at prominent locations, on trains, buses and taxis, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organizing seminars, workshops and road shows, publication of brochures and collaterals, joint advertisement support familiarization tours of tour operators and travel media, etc.

Further, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance for development of infrastructure under its Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for development and promotion of tourism. During the Tenth Five Year Plan the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 2012.02 crore for 1160 projects to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for promotion and development of tourism. In the current financial year Rs. 323 crore for 128 projects has been released to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for upgradation of infrastructure at tourist destinations.

(e) Yes, Sir. For the year 2007-08 the Ministry of Tourism has been allocated Rs. 953.00 crore.

Repair of bandh in Bihar

846. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Guabari marginal bandh was damaged in 2004 in Sikaran and Pakridayal sub-divisions of East Champaran (Bihar) and whether the bandh has not yet been repaired thereby causing loss of crores of rupees to the people;

(b) by when the bandh will be repaired; and

(c) whether any compensation and relief was given to the people and if so, at what rate and to whom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir, there was a breach in the abandoned marginal bandh of Goabari weir on Lalbakeya river in 2004. It has not been closed as yet.

(b) The breach is scheduled to be closed before flood of 2008.

(c) No information is available in this regard.

Water shortage in the country

†847. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by streamlining the water management in the country, the water shortage could be overcome;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether river inter-linking project can play a major role in water management; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the names of such rivers which have been selected for river inter-linking till now?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY. OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy, 2002 (NWP) has laid due emphasis on water management. The NWP states that there should be an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to planning, development, conservation and management of water resources. The Policy also states that adequate emphasis need to be given to physical and financial sustainability of water resources facilities and management of water resources for diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach. Ministry of Water Resources encourages adoption of better management practices.

(c) and (d) River interlinking project has important role in equitable distribution of water resources by transferring waters from water surplus to water deficit basins/areas.

The Government of India have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development (NPP) in August, 1980. The NPP comprises of two components *viz.* (i) Peninsular Rivers Development and (ii) Himalayan Rivers Development and envisages construction of storages on various river systems along with interlinking canal systems to transfer water from water surplus areas to water deficit regions. National Water DevelopmentAgency (NWDA) under Ministry of Water Resources has been set up in 1982 to study the feasibility of inter basin water transfer proposals and give a concrete shape to NPP. NWDA after various studies identified 30 links under NPP. Out of the 30 links, five links have been prioritized for their implementation. The prioritized links are (i) Ken-Betwa link (ii) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link (iii) Dmanaganga-Pinjal link (iv) Par-Tapi-Narmada link, and (v) Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link.

Inter-linking of rivers in India

†848. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme of inter-linking of various rivers in India is under discussion for the last 70 years;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction;

(c) whether above scheme could be implemented in view of the conflicts among various States even if water resource is placed in concurrent list;

(d) whether State Government of Rajasthan has submitted any scheme of inter-linking rivers of Chambal basin in Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Suggestions for a National Water Grid for transferring water from water rich regions to water-deficit areas have been made from time to time. Two proposals, put forth earlier in the seventies which attracted considerable attention, are National Water Grid by Dr. K. L. Rao and Garland Canal by Captain Dastur. These proposals were not pursued further by the Government as they were not techno-economically feasible.

The Ministry of Water Resources (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980. The NPP comprises of Two componets *viz.* (i) Peninsular Rivers Development and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.